



In many Catholic countries, the Assumption is a day to receive blessings on vineyards, herbs, and plants. It's a day of celebration and pageantry. After looking at some of the cultural traditions below, which ones would you like to begin in your family?

1. In Armenia, the faithful fast the week prior to the Assumption. On the Feast Day itself, they bring the first grapes from their vineyards to church to have them solemnly blessed by the priest. The Assumption is celebrated for three days (beginning August 14), and a solemn liturgical octave follows.

	Response Ratio
Fast before the Assumption	50%
Include grapes in your smoothie	25%
Celebrate the Assumption for three days	25%
Other	0%
Total	100%
0 Comment(s)	

2. In Austria, the faithful, led by their priest, walk through the fields and meadows imploring God's blessing upon the harvest with prayer and hymns.

	Response Ratio
Use fresh herbs and summer produce for your meals	50%
Plant a Mary Garden	25%
Implore God's blessing with prayer and hymns	50%
Other	0%
Total	100%
0 Comment(s)	

3. In Central Europe, the farmers bring sweet-smelling bouquets of their finest blossoms mixed with the green of herbs to church to receive an 'official blessing' of the herbs.

	Response Ratio
Make lavender cookies	33%
Make dried herb tea	33%
Make a crown of herbs and flowers for Mary and place it on your statue of Mary or your home altar	33%
Other	0%
Total	100%
1 Comment(s): I never tried lavender cookies!	

4. In France, traditional pageants are performed: statues of the Blessed Mother are adorned in beautiful robes, and, amidst statues of angels, she is 'lifted up to heaven.'

	Response Ratio
Decorate your statue of Mary or your home altar	100%
Encourage your children (or grandchildren) to create an Assumption play ***	0%
Other	0%
Total	100%
0 Comment(s)	

5. In Portugal, fishermen's boats (and the ocean, itself) are blessed on the Feast of the Assumption, and statues of Mary are crowned.

	Response Ratio
Crown a statue of Mary in your home	25%
Incorporate fresh fish into your dinner	75%
Other	0%
Total	100%
0 Comment(s)	

6. In Sardinia, a procession (called the Candelieri) is led to the church of the Assumption, in which seven large candlesticks -- each supporting a torch of a hundred pounds of wax -- is carried. At the church, the candles are placed beside Mary's shrine. The origin of the Candelieri dates back to the year 1580 when a deadly epidemic suddenly stopped on August 15 after the town had vowed to honor Mary by offering these candles every year.

	Response Ratio
Add a "Hail Mary" or "Hail, Holy Queen" to your mealtime grace for an end to the pandemic	60%
Light candles in your home and pray to Mary to end the pandemic	40%
Light candles at the Miraculous Medal Shrine and pray to Mary to end the pandemic	0%
Other	0%
Total	100%
0 Comment(s)	

7. In Sicily, the faithful keep a partial or total abstinence from fruit during the first two weeks of August in honor of Mary. On the Feast of the Assumption they bring their fruit to church to be blessed, serve the fruit at dinner, and gift others with baskets of fruit.

	Response Ratio
Abstain from fruit the first two weeks of August	20%
Bring a gift basket of fruit to a neighbor, shut in, or someone you know is lonely	40%
Make fruit preserves or pies	80%
Other	0%
Total	100%
0 Comment(s)	